

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-28, without prejudice, and add new claims 29- 56 as follows.

**Claims 1-28 (Cancelled)**

29. (New)      A method of providing location information in a mobile communication system, comprising the steps of: receiving a request for a current location of a mobile station; determining a time at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined; comparing the time to a threshold time limit; and, in response to the said step of comparing, providing, as the current location, the last known location if the time is within the threshold time limit.

30. (New)      A method according to claim 29 further comprising the steps of: determining a current location of the mobile station if the time is not within the threshold limit; and providing, as the current location, the obtained current location.

31. (New)      A method according to claim 29 wherein the step of comparing the time to the threshold time limit is dependent upon the status of the mobile station.

32. (New)      A method according to claim 31 wherein if the mobile station is active the comparing step is disabled and a current location is determined for the mobile station.

33. (New)      A method according to claim 31 wherein if the status of the mobile station is idle, the comparing step is enabled.

34. (New)      A method according to claim 30, wherein if a current location is not provided, the last known location is provided as the current location.

35. (New) A method according to claim 29 further comprising the step of storing the last known location of a mobile station together with a time associated with the last known location.

36. (New) A method according to claim 29 further comprising the step of storing the threshold time limit.

37. (New) A method according to claim 29 further comprising the step of dynamically adjusting the threshold time limit.

38. (New) A method according to claim 29 wherein the threshold time limit is set by a network operator.

39. (New) A method according to claim 29 wherein the threshold limit is included in the request for the current location.

40. (New) A method according to claim 29 wherein the time is an elapsed time.

41. (New) A method of providing location information in a mobile communication system, comprising the steps of: receiving at a network element a request from an application for a current location of a mobile station; determining, at the network element, a time at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined; comparing, at the network element, the time to a threshold time limit; and, in response to the said step of comparing, providing to the application, as the current location, the last known location if the time is within the threshold time limit.

42. (New) A network element for providing location information in a mobile communication system, comprising: means for receiving a request for a current location of a mobile station; means for determining a time at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined; means for comparing the time to a threshold time limit; and means for

providing, as the current location, in response to the said step of comparing, the last known location if the time is within the threshold time limit.

43. (New) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for determining a current location for the mobile station if the time is not within the threshold limit; wherein the means for providing is adapted to provide, as the current location, the obtained current location.

44. (New) A network element according to claim 42 wherein the means for comparing the time to the threshold time limit is responsive to a signal indicating the status of the mobile station.

45. (New) A network element according to claim 44 responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is active the comparing means is disabled and a current location is determined for the mobile station.

46. (New) A network element according to claim 44 wherein responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is idle, the comparing means is enabled.

47. (New) A network element according to claim 43, wherein if a current location is not provided, the network element is adapted to provide the last known location is provided as the current location.

48. (New) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for storing the last known location of a mobile station together with a time associated with the last known location.

49. (New) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for storing the threshold time limit.

50. (New) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for dynamically adjusting the threshold time limit.

51. (New) A network element according to claim 42 wherein the threshold time limit is set by a network operator.

52. (New) A network element according to claim 42 wherein the threshold time limit is included in the request for a current location.

53. (New) A mobile communication system including an application for providing location dependent services and for generating a location request for a user equipment; a network element for receiving the request for a current location of a mobile station; a network element for determining a time at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined and for comparing the time to a threshold time limit; and a network element for providing, as the current location, in response to the said step of comparing, the last known location if the time is within the threshold time limit.

54. (New) A mobile communication system according to claim 53, wherein the network element for determining the time at which the last known location was determined includes a visitor location register.

55. (New) A mobile communication system according to claim 53 wherein the system implements a CAMEL framework.

56. (New) A mobile communication system according to claim 53 wherein the system implements location services.